

*A.s.emini* Belgian Congo: Gamangui, 5; Kita Kita, 3; Avakubi, 2; Baraka, 2; Beni, 2; Bengamisa, 1; "Ituri Forest", 1. Uganda: Bwamba District, 7.

## A New Race of the Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* (Linnaeus) from India

by AJIT KUMAR MUKHERJEE

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The emerald dove, *Chalcophaps indica* (Linn.) is a beautiful bronze-colored bird of humid evergreen forests of the Orient. The genus is represented by a single species.

Baker (1921) recognized two races of *Chalcophaps indica*, namely, *Chalcophaps indica indica* (Linn.) which is widely distributed throughout the Indian continent and Burma and *Chalcophaps indica robinsoni* Baker, confined to Ceylon. Peters (1937) listed a third race, *Chalcophaps indica maxima* (Hartert), from South Andamans. He remarked (*loc. cit.*, note): "Due to great range of variation in this species and lack of sufficiently long series from all parts of the wide areas it inhabits, I am not sure whether I have recognized too many or not enough races."

On examination of a good material of *Chalcophaps indica* from different parts of India, I am inclined to agree with Peters. I may point out, however, that although individual variation in this species is great, such as in the varying amount of bronze on the back, scapulars and wing coverts, and the vinous red on the breast and abdomen specially in female and young ones, yet in a series they can be resolved into geographical groups on some general characters.

Taking into consideration the size and general coloration of only adult males in fresh winter plumage, I recognize within India, besides the nominate race which occupies the major part of India, one more race which occupies the humid zone, with an annual rainfall of 50-100 inches, of south-western India. Since no name is available for this population, it is here described as

### *Chalcophaps indica salimalii*, new subspecies

*Type*: B.N.H.S.\* Regd. No. 12805; adult male; Jenmalai (ca. 500'), Central Travancore, Kerala; 2nd March 1947; Collector—Sálím Ali.

*Material examined*: *Chalcophaps indica*: 42 specimens: 22 ♂, 16 ♀, 4 unsexed. WESTERN HIMALAYAS: 2 ♂ Simla, 2 ♂ Mussoorie, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ Dehraun; CENTRAL HIMALAYAS: 1 ♂ Nichlaul; EASTERN HIMALAYAS: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, 2 unsexed, Darjeeling; 2 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 unsexed, Sikkim; ASSAM: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Tura, 2 ♀ Patherughat, 1 ♀ Balcangiri, 1 ♀ Dibrugarh, 1 ♀ Naga Hills, 1 ♂, 1 ♀ Khasi Hills, 2 ♂, 1 ♀ N. Cachar; MADHYA PRADESH: 2 ♂ Kisli, Ghorela, 1 ♀ Rupjhar; EASTERN GHATS: 1 ♂ Orissa, 2 ♂ Nelliampathy Hills; WESTERN GHATS: 1 ♂ Surat Dangs, 1 ♀ Londa, 1 ♀ Joalbec; KERALA: 2 ♂, 1 unsexed Trivandrum, 1 ♂, 2 ♀ Mynall; 1 ♂ Anjengo; CEYLON: 1 ♂ Higara, 1 ♀ Udugama, South Province.

*Description*: Very similar to *C.i.robinsoni* but larger. The grey median line running from the head to scapulars present in *robinsoni*, is absent in Kerala birds. Emerald on the upper parts is less pronounced.

\* Stands for Bombay Natural History Society.

Compared with the nominate race it is larger and darker, has the abdomen lighter than the throat and breast and the metallic bronze on the upper parts less pronounced and green prominent.

Measurements (in millimetres):				
Type of <i>C.i.salimalii</i>		Wing	Tail	Bill from skull
Other specimens of <i>C.i.salimalii</i>	1 ♂	152.5	93	23.5
	1 ♂	155	100 (Trivandrum Museum coll.)	—
	a 2 ♂	152-155	93-101	—
	2 ♀	144-146	90	—
	b 1 (?)	155	82	—
<i>C.i.robinsoni</i>	1 ♂	136	90	—
	1 ♀	136	87	—
Other specimens of <i>C.i.robinsoni</i>	c 1 ♂	134	86.5	—
	5 ♀	134-142	80-93	—
<i>C.i.indica</i>	16 ♂	140-155 (147.8)	77-95 (86.1)	—
(Himalayas and Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats)	6 ♀	135-151 (143.3)	72-91 (88.3)	—

a Measurements supplied by the British Museum.

b Measurements supplied by the American Museum of Natural History.

c Ex. Whistler, H. 1944. The avifaunal survey of Ceylon. Spol. Zeyl. 23, 253.

*Range:* Kerala.

*Remarks:* Ali (1953) had already recognized the fact that the Travancore birds were not the same as either Ceylonese or Peninsular Indian birds. This new dove is named in honour of Dr. Sálím Ali, the veteran ornithologist who has contributed a great deal of valuable information on the Indian avifauna.

I am grateful to the authorities of the Bombay Natural History Society for the loan of some material for my study; to Shri N. G. Pillai of the Trivandrum Museum, Kerala, also for lending a specimen for my study; to Mr. J. D. Macdonald of the British Museum and Dr. Charles Vaurie of the American Museum of Natural History for supplying me with measurements of emerald doves from their collection.

References:—

Ali, S. 1953—The birds of Travancore Cochin, 330.

Baker, E. C. Stuart, 1921—The fauna of British India, Birds, 5, 125.

Peters, J. L. 1937—Check-list of birds of the world, 3, 114.

## Some Inter relationships in the Larks of the *Mirafrá africana* Group

by MR. C. M. N. WHITE

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The southern and central African populations of this lark have been discussed several times in recent years, and the present notes deal mainly with some of the more northern groups.